

What is claimed is:

1. A multimedia mailbox system, comprising:

5 a) a message store for storing multimedia messages; and

b) a plurality of data converters for converting  
messages in one medium to messages in another  
medium.

10

2. A system according to claim 1 wherein said plurality  
of data converters includes at least two selected from  
the group consisting of a text to speech converter, a  
15 speech to text converter, and a fax to text converter.

3. A system according to claim 1 further comprising  
means for linguistically based searching of multiple  
20 message types and for linguistically relating multiple  
messages of different type.

4. A system according to claim 1 further comprising  
25 means for assigning a reference number to each message.

5. A multimedia mailbox system, comprising:

a) a message store for storing multimedia messages; and

5

b) means for linguistically based searching of multiple message types and for linguistically relating multiple messages of different type.

10

6. A system according to claim 5 further comprising means for assigning a reference number to each message.

15

7. A multimedia mailbox system, comprising:

a) a message store for storing multimedia messages;

20

b) a plurality of data converters for converting messages in one medium to messages in another medium;

25

c) means for linguistically based searching of multiple message types and for linguistically relating multiple messages of different type and

d) means for assigning a reference number to each message.

8. A system according to claim 7 wherein said plurality  
of data converters includes at least two selected from  
the group consisting of a text to speech converter, a  
5 speech to text converter, and a fax to text converter.

9. A method for managing a multimedia mailbox,  
comprising the steps of:

10

a) storing messages of different types in a single  
mailbox; and

15

b) automatically converting messages from one medium to  
another.

10. A method according to claim 9 wherein said step of  
converting includes at least two selected from the group  
20 consisting of converting text to speech, converting  
speech to text, and converting fax to text.

11. A method according to claim 9 further comprising the  
25 step of linguistically searching multiple message types  
and linguistically relating multiple messages of  
different type.

12. A method according to claim 9 further comprising the step of assigning a reference number to each message.

5 13. A method for managing a multimedia mailbox, comprising the steps of:

a) storing messages of different types in a single mailbox; and

10

b) linguistically searching multiple message types and linguistically relating multiple messages of different type.

15

14. A method according to claim 13 further comprising the step of assigning a reference number to each message.

15. A method for managing a multimedia mailbox,  
comprising the steps of:

- 5     a) storing messages of different types in a single  
      mailbox;
- b) automatically converting messages from one medium to  
         another;
- 10    c) linguistically searching multiple message types and  
      linguistically relating multiple messages of  
      different type; and
- 15    d) assigning a reference number to each message.

16. A method according to claim 15 wherein said step of  
converting includes at least two selected from the group  
20 consisting of converting text to speech, converting  
speech to text, and converting fax to text.